

Talking Points: L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa to Chair the Democratic National Convention

Key Point: Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will be nominated to chair this year's Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- The Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) announced today that Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz will nominate Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Permanent Chair of the 2012 Democratic National Convention. DNC Chair Wasserman Schultz's nomination of Mayor Villaraigosa will be presented to the Convention Rules Committee and then voted on by the delegates to the 2012 Convention at the opening session.
- The Permanent Chair presides over the convention proceedings, ensuring order, decorum and efficiency as the party nominates its presidential and vice presidential candidates, adopts the national platform, and conducts other important business. The Permanent Chair also acts as another national spokesperson for the convention.
- Mayor Villaraigosa has dedicated his career to civic engagement and empowering people at the grassroots. And that's exactly what we need to be successful at this convention – input and engagement from Americans across the country.
 - As a high school student, he volunteered with the farm workers movement, led student walkouts and organized an African-American student union.
 - Before he was elected to public office he worked as a union organizer.
- Our success depends on the involvement of Americans at the grassroots level all across the country and enlisting them to continue to work for change. From format to funding, we want to increase the influence of the grassroots and empower more Americans to become involved in the political process.
- Mayor Villaraigosa is asking people to share their ideas with convention planners by going to demconvention.com and tell us how we can make this the most open and accessible convention in history.
- We're already making changes to include more people. The DNCC announced in late January changes in format and venue that will allow tens of thousands more people to be engaged in the convention.
 - Convention week will open with a family-friendly Labor Day event at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Monday, September 3, that will be open to people from across the region and around the country.
 - Delegates will vote on Mayor Villaraigosa's nomination at the convention's opening session and he will preside over convention proceedings at Time Warner Cable Arena, on Tuesday, September 4, and Wednesday, September 5.
 - And on Thursday September 6, President Obama will accept the nomination at Bank of America Stadium, where once again the public will be invited to attend.

- President Obama began his journey five years ago with a conversation – friends reaching out to neighbors, families talking around the dinner table. At this convention we want to engage Americans in a conversation about how we can strengthen the country in a way that creates more opportunity for all.

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